Please amend the claims as follows:

*Please amend claims 54, 59, 68-71, 73-77, 79-84, 86, and 87.*

*Please cancel claims 55, 62, 63, 78 and 85*

*Please add new claims 88-90.*

54. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting lymphotoxin-β-receptor (LT-β-R) signaling in a subject having an autoimmune disorder or a chronic inflammatory disease comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an LT-β-R blocking agent, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the LT-β-R blocking agent comprises a soluble LT-β-R or an antibody directed against LT-β-R.

55. **(Canceled)**

56. **(Canceled)**

57. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 54 , wherein the subject is a human.

58. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 54, wherein the LT-β-R blocking agent comprises a soluble LT-β-R having a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

59. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 54, wherein the LT-β-R blocking agent comprises a soluble LT-β-R fused to one or more heterologous protein domains. ~~further comprising a human immunoglobulin Fc domain~~.

60. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 54, wherein the LT-β-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT-β-R.

61-65. **(Canceled)**

66. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 58, wherein the soluble LT-$\beta$-R is administered in an amount sufficient to coat LT-$\beta$ receptor-positive cells for 1 to 14 days.

67. **(Canceled)**

68. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 58, wherein the pharmaceutical composition ~~soluble LT-$\beta$-R~~ is administered to the subject at a dose of about 1 mg/kg.

69. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 58, wherein the pharmaceutical composition ~~soluble LT-$\beta$-R~~ is administered to the subject via oral administration or parenteral administration.

70. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 58, wherein the pharmaceutical composition ~~soluble LT-$\beta$-R~~ is administered via parenteral administration selected from the group consisting of subcutaneous administration, intravenous administration, and intralesional administration.

71. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting lymphotoxin-$\beta$ receptor (LT-$\beta$-R) signaling in a subject having an autoimmune disorder or a chronic inflammatory disorder comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an LT-$\beta$-R blocking agent, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the LT-$\beta$-R blocking agent comprises ~~comprising~~ a soluble LT-$\beta$-R fused to one or more heterologous protein domains.

72. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 71, wherein the heterologous protein domain comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

73. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 71, wherein the soluble LT-β-R comprises a functional sequence of amino acids selected from the amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the functional sequence comprises the LT-β-R ligand binding domain.

74. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the heterologous domain ~~soluble LT-β-R~~ further comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

75. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 74, wherein the composition ~~soluble LT-β-R~~ is administered to the subject at a dose of about 1 mg/kg.

76. **(Currently amended** The method according to claim 74, wherein the composition ~~soluble LT-β-R~~ is administered to the subject via oral administration or parenteral administration.

77. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 74, wherein the composition ~~soluble LT-β-R~~ is administered via parenteral administration selected from the group consisting of subcutaneous administration, intravenous administration, and intralesional administration.

78. **(Canceled)**

79. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 71 ~~78~~, wherein the autoimmune disorder is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes mellitus, multiple sclerosis, sympathetic ophthalmia, and uveitis.

80. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 71 ~~78~~, wherein the chronic inflammatory disorder is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis.

81. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting lymphotoxin-β receptor (LT-β-R) signaling in a subject having an autoimmune disorder or a chronic inflammatory disorder comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition comprising an

effective amount of an LT-β-R blocking agent comprising a soluble LT-β-R fused to a heterologous domain comprising a human immunoglobulin Fc domain, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the soluble LT-β-R consists essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

82. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 81, wherein the composition ~~soluble LT-β-R~~ is administered to the subject at a dose of about 1 mg/kg.

83. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 81, wherein the composition ~~soluble LT-β-R~~ is administered to the subject via oral administration or parenteral administration.

84. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 81, wherein the composition ~~soluble LT-β-R~~ is administered via parenteral administration selected from the group consisting of subcutaneous administration, intravenous administration, and intralesional administration.

85. **(Canceled)**

86. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 81 ~~85~~, wherein the autoimmune disorder is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes mellitus, multiple sclerosis, sympathetic ophthalmia, and uveitis.

87. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 81 ~~85~~, wherein the chronic inflammatory disorder is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis.

88. **(New)** The method according to claim 59, wherein the heterologous protein domain further comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

89. **(New)** The method according to claim 54, wherein the autoimmune disorder is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes mellitus, multiple sclerosis, sympathetic ophthalmia, and uveitis.

90. **(New)** The method according to claim 54, wherein the chronic inflammatory disorder is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis.